



# Committee on Homeland Security

**Democrats**

**Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking  
Member**

[www.house.gov/hsc/democrats/](http://www.house.gov/hsc/democrats/)

April 27, 2005

Contact: Nadra Harrison  
202.226.2616

## DEMOCRATS INTRODUCE AMENDMENT ON DIVERSITY: *"Ensure Opportunity at the Department of Homeland Security"*

**April 27, 2005, Washington, DC** — Congressman Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS), Ranking Member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, will make the following statement during the open markup session today to consider the Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act for fiscal year 2006:

**"When terrorists attacked our nation on 9-11, they did not care about the ethnicity, race or gender of those who perished in the World Trade Center, in the Pentagon, or on the airplanes used as weapons. They only cared that those folks, they thought, represented America. As we build our defense against these terrorists, it is imperative that we include America – include the very people – regardless of their differences - that the terrorists sought to destroy. "**

The amendment on diversity to be introduced by Democrats requires the Chief Human Capital Officer to report to Congress a plan, with performance measures and timelines, to ensure participation rates of employees of all races, national origins, genders, and disabilities are at or above their representation levels in the overall U.S. population in all levels of the Department. It requires the Department to award at least 5 percent of their contracts to small, disadvantaged and minority and women owned businesses. In addition, the Department is expected to diversify the Centers of Excellence Program, by including Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, as well as Tribally-Controlled Colleges into the program.

###